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WHOLE EARTH INSTITUTE

ONE YEAR LATER...

What is the Whole Earth Institute?

The Whole Earth Institute is the research & development arm of the POINT foundation. With the continued assistance of generous supporters, the Institute will hatch new ventures, explore new avenues of information dissemination, and take new steps to link people to information and community.

How is it different from other Institutes?

With POINT's twenty-year background of being professional but non-conventional, Whole Earth Institute is not a "start-up' operation but rather an outgrowth of an entrepreneurial, non-profit organization which is global in scope, which sees holes and fills them and is now seeking the opportunity to venture into new realms of research and innovation.

As part of a non-profit organization that is known to be iconoclastic yet can work effectively with for-profits, and indeed provide inspiration to other entrepreneurs, Whole Earth Institute has a high degree of visibility and impact but is in need of continued financial support so it can continue to build on its expertise, become more active and help individuals understand and shape the world in which they live.

What has Whole Earth Institute done so far?

Over the past year Whole Earth Institute has grown from an idea in the mind of POINT board members to a real entity. Much of the year has been spent on reaching out to supporters for ideological and financial assistance, and taking time to define what avenues the Institute should explore.

Building on this financial base, the Institute has already started to develop projects. In March we sponsored a one-day workshop called "Distributed Information Technology" where computer professionals from various telecommunities gathered to discuss ways to interlink into one national network.

What new projects is the Whole Earth Institute planning?

Whole Earth Institute has various short- and long-term projects planned. Some projects for the next year are:

- a conference on the Cultural and Social Impact Of Virtual Reality
- a video on Virtual Reality
- a book -- *Healing The Earth* -- on the environmental restoration movement

Over the next few years, the Institute plans to spearhead a multi-faceted information system by creating:

- an accessible library
- a central database
- an environmental resource bank
- a research service

Where will it get financing?

To move forward on these and other projects that will continue to empower individuals, Whole Earth Institute will continue to rely on the generosity of its supporters for financial assistance. In addition the Institute will look to foundations for grant money and to corporations for sponsorship of individual enterprises.

Who has contributed to it so far??

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